— EXHIBIT A —

1		THE HONORABLE JAMES L. ROBART
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8	UNITED STATES D	
9	WESTERN DISTRICT	OF WASHINGTON
10	KELSEY SMITH, DEBRA JONES STEVENSON, FRANK GARRIDO, TAYLOR	
11	ARMIGER, and GWENDOLYN THOMPSON, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly	NO. 2:21-cv-00823-JLR
12	situated,	FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT— CLASS ACTION
13	Plaintiffs,	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
14	VS.	
15	ASSURANCE IQ, LLC,	
16		
17	Defendant.	
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19	Kelsey Smith, Debra Jones Stevenson, Fra	ank Garrido, Taylor Armiger and Gwendolyn
20	Thompson, individually and on behalf of others si	milarly situated, allegesallege the following
21	against Defendant Assurance IQ, LLC ("Assurance IQ")	ce IQ" or "Defendant").
22	I. NATURE OI	FACTION
23	1. As the Supreme Court recently has	explained, "Americans passionately disagree
24	about many things. But they are largely united in	their disdain for robocalls. The Federal
25	Government receives a staggering number of com	plaints about robocalls—3.7 million
26	complaints in 2019 alone. The States likewise fiel	d a constant barrage of complaints. For
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	FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT—CLASS ACTION - 1 Case No. 2:21-cv-00823-JLR	TURKE & STRAUSS LLP 613 Williamson St., Suite 201 Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3515 TEL. 608.237.1775 • FAX 608.509.4423 www.turkestrauss.com

1	nearly 30 years, the people's representatives in Congress have been fighting back. As relevant
2	here, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, known as the TCPA, generally
3	prohibits robocalls to cell phones and home phones." Barr v. Am. Ass'n of Political
4	Consultants, No. 19-631, 2020 U.S. LEXIS 3544, at *5 (July 6, 140 S. Ct. 2335, 2343 (2020).
5	2. Assurance IQ is an insurance company providing insurance products and
6	services to consumers.
7	3. To promote these insurance products and services, Assurance IQ uses pre-
8	recorded robocalls.
9	4. Assurance IQ made unsolicited calls to Plaintiff on her cellular telephonethe
10	Plaintiffs on their telephones using prerecorded messages.
11	5. Assurance IQ also made these calls to residential telephone numbers, like
12	Plaintiff's Plaintiffs Smith and Thompson, that were listed on the National Do Not Call
13	Registry.
14	6. <u>PlaintiffPlaintiffs</u> now <u>filesfile</u> this lawsuit seeking injunctive relief, requiring
15	Assurance IQ to stop placing unsolicited telemarketing calls to residential and cellular
16	telephone numbers, and to those numbers listed on the National Do Not Call Registry, as well
17	as an award of statutory damages and costs to class members.
18	II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE
19	7. This Court has federal question subject matter jurisdiction over this action under
20	28 U.S.C. § 1331, as the action arises under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act,
21	47 U.S.C. §227 ("TCPA").
22	8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Assurance IQ, and venue is proper in
23	this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendant Assurance IQ resides in this
24	District.
25	III. PARTIES
26	9. Plaintiff Kelsey Smith is a citizen of Maryland.
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1	10. Plaintiff Debra Jones Stevenson is a citizen of New Jersey.
2	11. Plaintiff Frank Garrido is a citizen of Florida.
3	12. Plaintiff Taylor Armiger is a citizen of Florida.
4	13. Plaintiff Gwendolyn Thompson is a citizen of Missisippi.
5	10.14. Defendant Assurance IQ, LLC is a limited liability company with its principal
6	place of business located at 920 5th Avenue, Suite 3600, Seattle, Washington 98104 in King
7	County. Assurance IQ, thus, is a citizen of Washington.
8	IV. TCPA BACKGROUND
9	A. The TCPA Prohibits Automated Telemarketing Calls
10	41.15. The TCPA makes it unlawful to make any call (other than a call made for
11	emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using an
12	automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice to any telephone
13	number assigned to a cellular telephone service or that is charged per the call. See 47 U.S.C.
14	§ 227(b)(1)(A)(iii); see also 47 C.F.R. § 614.1200(a)(2).
15	12.16. Similarly, the TCPA also prohibits the initiation of any telemarketing telephone
16	call to a residential telephone line using an artificial or prerecorded voice without the prior
17	express consent of the called party. See 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(B); see also 47 C.F.R.
18	§ 614.1200(a)(3).
19	13.17. The TCPA provides a private cause of action to persons who receive calls in
20	violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A) or 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(B). See 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).
21	14.18. According to findings by the Federal Communication Commission ("FCC"), the
22	agency Congress vested with authority to issue regulations implementing the TCPA, such calls
23	are prohibited because, as Congress found, automated or prerecorded telephone calls are a
24	greater nuisance and invasion of privacy than live solicitation calls, and such calls can be
25	costly and inconvenient.
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1	15.19. The FCC also recognized that "wireless customers are charged for incoming
2	calls whether they pay in advance or after the minutes are used." In re Rules and Regulations
3	Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991, CG Docket No. 02-278, Report and Order
4	18 F.C.C. Red. 14014, 14115 ¶ 165 (2003).
5	16.20. In 2013, the FCC required prior express written consent for all autodialed or
6	prerecorded telemarketing calls ("robocalls") to wireless numbers and residential lines.
7	Specifically, it ordered that:
8	[A] consumer's written consent to receive telemarketing robocalls
9	must be signed and be sufficient to show that the consumer: (1) received "clear and conspicuous disclosure" of the consequences
10	of providing the requested consent, i.e., that the consumer will receive future calls that deliver prerecorded messages by or on
11	behalf of a specific seller; and (2) having received this
12	information, agrees unambiguously to receive such calls at a telephone number the consumer designates.[] In addition, the
13	written agreement must be obtained "without requiring, directly or indirectly, that the agreement be executed as a condition of
14	purchasing any good or service.[]"
15	In the Matter of Rules & Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991,
16	27 F.C.C. Rcd. 1830, 1844 (2012) (footnotes omitted).
17	B. The National Do Not Call Registry
18	17.21. Section 227(c) of the TCPA requires the FCC to "initiate a rulemaking
19	proceeding concerning the need to protect residential telephone subscribers' privacy rights to
20	avoid receiving telephone solicitations to which they object." 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(1).
21	18.22. The National Do Not Call Registry allows consumers to register their telephone
22	numbers and thereby indicate their desire not to receive telephone solicitations at those
23	numbers. See 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2).
24	19.23. A listing on the Registry "must be honored indefinitely, or until the registration
25	is cancelled by the consumer or the telephone number is removed by the database
26	administrator." Id.
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	ii.

1	20.24. The TCPA and implementing regulations prohibit the initiation of telephone
2	solicitations to residential telephone subscribers to the Registry and provides a private right of
3	action against any entity that makes those calls, or "on whose behalf" such calls are made.
4	47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5); 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2).
5	V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS
6	A. Factual Allegations Regarding Defendant
7	21.25. Assurance IQ provides insurance services to consumers.
8	22.26. One of Assurance IQ's strategies for marketing its insurance services includes
9	the use of prerecorded messages.
10	23.27. Assurance IQ engages in prerecorded calls to solicit new customers.
11	24.28. Recipients of these prerecorded calls, including PlaintiffPlaintiffs, did not
12	consent to receive such calls.
13	B. Factual Allegations Regarding Plaintiff Smith
14	25.29. Plaintiff Smith is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as defined
15	by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
16	26.30. Plaintiff's Plaintiff Smith's telephone number, (XXX) XXX-2291, is assigned to
17	a cellular telephone service.
18	27.31. Plaintiff's Plaintiff Smith's telephone number was registered on the National Do
19	Not Call Registry on July 9, 2011.
20	28.32. Plaintiff's Plaintiff Smith's telephone number is for personal use only.
21	29.33. Plaintiff's Plaintiff Smith's telephone number is not associated with a business.
22	30.34. Plaintiff Smith has never been an Assurance IQ customer and never consented
23	to receive calls from Assurance IQ.
24	31.35. Despite this, Plaintiff Smith received multiple prerecorded calls from Assurance
25	IQ starting in September 2020.
26	32.36. The calls all used a prerecorded message regarding the sale of insurance.
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	FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT—CLASS ACTION - 5

1	33.37. On several occasions, after the prerecorded message played, Plaintiff Smith was
2	connected with a live agent and asked the caller to stop calling.
3	34.38. However, the calls continued.
4	35.39. Assurance IQ's marketing communications became so frequent that on October
5	29, 2020, Plaintiff Smith sent an email to the CEO of Assurance IQ, Michael Rowell.
6	36.40. In response to her complaints, Assurance IQ finally confirmed in November
7	2020 that it would stop calling her.
8	C. Factual Allegations Regarding Plaintiff Stevenson
9	41. Plaintiff Stevenson is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as
10	defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
11	42. Plaintiff Stevenson's telephone number, (XXX) XXX-5983, is a residential
12	landline.
13	43. Plaintiff Stevenson's telephone number is for personal use only.
14	44. Plaintiff Stevenson's telephone number is not associated with a business.
15	45. Plaintiff Stevenson has never been an Assurance IQ customer and never
16	consented to receive calls from Assurance IQ.
17	46. Despite this, Plaintiff Stevenson received multiple prerecorded calls from
18	Assurance IQ starting in April and May of 2021.
19	47. This included calls on April 28, 29, May 19, and 20, 2021.
20	48. The calls all used a prerecorded message regarding the sale of insurance.
21	49. All of the calls advertise healthinsurance.net, which is owned and operated by
22	Assurance.
23	50. As such, the calls were all made to promote Assurance goods and services.
24	D. Factual Allegations Regarding Plaintiff Garrido
25	51. Plaintiff Garrido is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as defined
26	by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
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1	52. Plaintiff Garrido's telephone number, (XXX) XXX-1626, is assigned to a	
2	cellular telephone service.	
3	53. Plaintiff Garrido has never been an Assurance IQ customer and never consented	
4	to receive calls from Assurance IQ.	
5	54. Despite this, Plaintiff Garrido received a prerecorded call from Assurance IQ on	
6	<u>June 11, 2021.</u>	
7	55. The call began with a prerecorded message regarding insurance.	
8	56. The company wasn't identified in the prerecorded message.	
9	57. The Plaintiff Garrido spoke with a telemarketer to identify the company calling.	
10	58. During the call, the Plaintiff Garrido was transferred to an individual who	
11	identified herself as "Crystal Edwards", an employee of Assurance.	
12	59. Crystal Edwards provided a callback number of (833) 641-1207.	
13	E. Factual Allegations Regarding Plaintiff Thompson	
14	60. Plaintiff Thompson is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as	
15	defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).	
16	61. Plaintiff Thompson's telephone number, (XXX) XXX-3072, is assigned to a	
17	<u>cellular telephone service.</u>	
18	62. Plaintiff Thompson's telephone number was registered on the National Do Not	
19	Call Registry on April 26, 2021.	
20	63. Plaintiff Thompson's telephone number is for personal use only.	
21	64. Plaintiff Thompson's telephone number is not associated with a business.	
22	65. Plaintiff Thompson has never been an Assurance IQ customer and never	
23	consented to receive calls from Assurance IQ.	
24	66. Despite this, Plaintiff Thompson received multiple prerecorded calls from	
25	Assurance IQ in June of 2021.	
26	67. This included calls on June 27 or 28, 2021.	
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1	<u>68.</u>	The calls all used a prerecorded message regarding the sale of insurance.
2	<u>69.</u>	All of the calls advertise lifeinusrance.net, which is owned and operated by
3	Assurance	<u>.</u>
4	F. Fa	ctual Allegations Regarding Plaintiff Armiger
5	<u>70.</u>	Plaintiff Armiger is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as
6	defined by	47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
7	<u>71.</u>	Plaintiff Armiger's telephone number, (XXX) XXX-1234, is assigned to a
8	cellular tel	lephone service.
9	<u>72.</u>	Plaintiff Armiger has never been an Assurance IQ customer and never
10	consented	to receive calls from Assurance IQ.
11	<u>73.</u>	Despite this, Plaintiff Armiger received multiple prerecorded calls from
12	Assurance	IQ in November of 2020.
13	<u>74.</u>	This included calls on November 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12, 2020.
14	<u>75.</u>	The calls all used a prerecorded message regarding the sale of insurance.
15	<u>76.</u>	The calls indicated that the caller is contacting Plaintiff Armiger from
16	Assurance	<u>.</u>
17	<u>77.</u>	All of the calls advertise healthinusrance.net, which is owned and operated by
18	Assurance	<u>.</u>
19	<u>78.</u>	The calls also left a callback number of (844) 394-0579.
20	<u>79.</u>	Other individuals have indicated that they have received similar unwanted calls:
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22		They claim I have filled out a health insurance survey and want to sell me insurance, I have not filled out any request for health
23		insurance. I called and they claim this is 3rd party information and they can nothing about it.
24		The # that calls is a local # and the automated voice mail is
25		considered not wanted and harassments. I ask them to stop calling and get 2-3 calls a week.
26		Caller: Assurance Insurance
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1	<u>Call type: Unwanted</u>
2	See https://800notes.com/Phone.aspx/1-844-394-0579 (last visited October 11, 2021).
3	37.80. Assurance IQ is responsible for making the above-described calls.
4	38.81. Assurance IQ has received multiple complaints about their prerecorded calling
5	process, including from state attorneys general.
6	39.82. PlaintiffPlaintiffs and other individuals who received these calls suffered an
7	invasion of privacy and were harassed by the conduct of Assurance IQ.
8	VI. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS
9	40.83. Plaintiff incorporates Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of
10	this Complaint as if fully stated herein.
11	41.84. As authorized by Rule 23(b)(2) or (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil
12	Procedure, Plaintiff brings Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of two classes of all other
13	persons or entities similarly situated throughout the United States (the "Classes").
14	42.85. Plaintiff proposes Plaintiffs propose the following Class definitions, subject to
15	amendment as appropriate:
16	Robocall Class:
17	All persons within the United States: (1) to whose residential or
18	cellular telephone number; (2) Defendant (or an agent acting on behalf of Defendant) placed a telemarketing call; (3) within the
19	four years prior to the filing of the Complaint; and (4) using an identical or substantially similara prerecorded message used to
20	placevoice, and (5) after obtaining the telephone eall to
21	Plaintiffnumber from the same source from which it obtained Plaintiffs' telephone numbers.
22	National Do Not Call Registry Class:
23	All persons in the United States (1) whose telephone numbers
24	were on the National Do Not Call Registry for at least 31 days (2)
25	but who received more than one telemarketing call (3) from Defendant (or an agent acting on behalf of Defendant) (4) within
26	a 12-month period, (5) within the four years prior to the filing of the Complaint, and (6) after obtaining the telephone number from
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1	the same source from which it obtained Plaintiffs' telephone numbers.
2	43.86. Excluded from the Classes are counsel, Defendant, any entities in which
3	Defendant has a controlling interest, Defendant's agents and employees, any judge to whom
4	this action is assigned, and any member of such judge's staff and immediate family.
5	44.87. Plaintiff is a member Smith and Thompson are members of and the National Do
6	Not Call Registry Class. All Plaintiffs are members of the Robocall Class. Plaintiffs will fairly
7	and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Classes as she hasthey have no
8	interests that conflict with any of the Class members.
9	45.88. PlaintiffPlaintiffs and all members of the Classes have been harmed by the acts
10	of Defendant, including, but not limited to, the invasion of their privacy and the intrusion on
11	their telephone that occupied it from receiving legitimate communications.
12	46.89. The Classes, as defined above, are identifiable through Defendant's dialer
13	records, other telephone records, and telephone number databases.
14	47.90. Plaintiff does Plaintiffs do not know the exact number of members in the
15	Classes, but Plaintiff reasonably believes they reasonable believe that Class members number,
16	at minimum, in the hundreds since the use of prerecorded messages is typically employed to
17	call en masse.
18	48.91. The joinder of all Class members is impracticable due to the size and relatively
19	modest value of each individual claim.
20	49.92. Additionally, the disposition of the claims in a class action will provide
21	substantial benefit to the parties and the Court in avoiding a multiplicity of identical suits.
22	50.93. There are well defined, nearly identical questions of law and fact affecting all
23	parties. The questions of law and fact, referred to above, involving the Class claims
24	predominate over questions that may affect individual Class members.
25	51.94. There are numerous questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff Plaintiffs and
26	to the proposed Classes, including but not limited to the following:
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1	present significantly fewer difficulties than are presented in many class claims. Class treatment
2	is superior to multiple individual suits or piecemeal litigation because it conserves judicial
3	resources, promotes consistency and efficiency of adjudication, provides a forum for small
4	claimants, and deters illegal activities. There will be no significant difficulty in the
5	management of this case as a class action.
6	56.99. Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Classes, thereby
7	making final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Classes
8	appropriate on a classwide basis.
9	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
10	Violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (47 U.S.C. 227(b) on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Robocall Class)
11	57.100. Plaintiff incorporates Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations from all
12	previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
13	58.101. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant and/or its affiliates,
14	agents, and/or other persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf constitute numerous and
15	multiple violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227(b), by delivering prerecorded telemarketing
16	messages to the cellular and residential telephone numbers of Plaintiff and members
17	of the Robocall Class.
18	As a result of Defendant's and/or its affiliates, agents, and/or other
19	persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf's violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227,
20	PlaintiffPlaintiffs and members of the Robocall Class presumptively are entitled to an award of
21	\$500 in damages for each and every call made to their cellular and residential telephone
22	numbers using an artificial or prerecorded voice in violation of the statute, pursuant to 47
23	U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
24	60.103. If the Defendant's conduct is found to be knowing or willful,
25	PlaintiffPlaintiffs and members of the Robocall Class are entitled to an award of up to treble
26	damages.
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1	61.104. PlaintiffPlaintiffs and members of the Robocall Class are also entitled to
2	and do seek injunctive relief prohibiting Defendant and/or its affiliates, agents, and/or other
3	persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf from violating the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227(b),
4	by making telemarketing calls to any cellular or residential telephone numbers using an
5	artificial or prerecorded voice in the future.
6	SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
7 8	Violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq. on behalf of Plaintiffs Smith and Thompson and the National Do Not Call Registry Class)
9	62.105. Defendant violated the TCPA and the Regulations by making, or having
10	its agent make, two or more telemarketing automated calls within a 12-month period on
11	Defendant's behalf to Plaintiff Smith and Thompson and members of the National Do Not Call
12	Registry Class while those persons' telephone numbers were registered on the National Do Not
13	Call Registry.
14	As a result of the Defendant's violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.,
15	Plaintiff Smith and Thompson and National Do Not Call Registry Class members are entitled
16	to an award of up to \$500 in statutory damages for each and every violation of the statute,
17	pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5).
18	64.107. Plaintiff Smith and Thompson and National Do Not Call Registry Class
19	members are also entitled to and do seek injunctive relief prohibiting the Defendant from
20	advertising their goods or services, except for emergency purposes, to any number on the
21	National Do Not Call Registry in the future.
22	65.108. The Defendant's violations were knowing or willful.
23	VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF
24	WHEREFORE, PlaintiffPlaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the Classes, prays for
25	the following relief:
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	FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT—CLASS ACTION - 13 TURKE & STRAUSS LLP

1	A. Injunctive relief prohibiting Defendant from calling telephone numbers
2	advertising their goods or services, except for emergency purposes, to any cellular or
3	residential telephone number using a prerecorded message in the future, or in any call to a
4	residential number on the National Do Not Call Registry;
5	B. That the Court enter a judgment awarding PlaintiffPlaintiffs and all Class
6	members statutory damages of \$500 for each violation of the TCPA and \$1,500 for each
7	knowing or willful violation; and
8	C. An order certifying this action to be a proper class action pursuant to Federal
9	Rule of Civil Procedure 23, establishing Classes the Court deems appropriate, finding that
10	Plaintiff is Plaintiffs are a proper representative of the Classes, and appointing the lawyers and
11	law firms representing PlaintiffPlaintiffs as counsel for the Classes;
12	D. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.
13	VIII. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
14	PlaintiffPlaintiffs hereby demands demand a trial by jury.
15	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED AND DATED this 12th day of October, 2021.
16	TURKE & STRAUSS LLP
17	By: _/s/ Samuel J. Strauss, WSBA #46971
18	Samuel J. Strauss, WSBA #46971
19	Email: sam@turkestrauss.com 613 Williamson St., Suite 201
20	Madison, Wisconsin 53703
21	Telephone: (608) 237-1775 Facsimile: (608) 509-4423
22	Anthony I. Paronich, <i>Pro Hac Vice</i>
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1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
2	<u>I, Samuel J. Strauss, hereby certify that on October 12, 2021, I electronically filed the</u>
3	foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification
4	of such filing to the following:
5	John Du Wors NEWMAN DU WORS LLP
7	2101 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1500 Seattle, Washington 98121 Telephone: (206) 274-2800
8	Facsimile: (206) 274-2800 Email: john@newmanlaw.com
10	Attorneys for Defendant
11	DATED this 12th day of October, 2021.
12	TURKE & STRAUSS LLP
13	By: /s/ Samuel J. Strauss, WSBA #46971
14	Samuel J. Strauss, WSBA #46971 Email: sam@turkestrauss.com
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